

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. JORDAN: AS SAUDIS OPEN THE PURSE, HUSSEIN CLOSES THE
DOOR

AMBASSADOR PORTER SAYS THE SAUDIS ARE READY TO PROVIDE JOR-
DAN WITH MORE THAN \$500 MILLION FOR AN AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE
SYSTEM. ROYAL COUNSELOR ADHAM SAID THERE MAY BE AN OUTRIGHT
GRANT OF OVER \$300 MILLION, ACCOMPANIED BY CONCESSIONARY
LOANS EXCEEDING \$200 MILLION.

KING HUSSEIN, MEANWHILE, TOLD NEWSWEEK THAT THE SOVIETS HAD
OFFERED HIM A "MORE FLEXIBLE" SYSTEM AT 60 PER CENT OF THE
HAWK PRICE, AND THAT THE HAWK DEAL WAS "DEAD" UNLESS THE US
COULD COME UP WITH A BETTER PRICE. HE ADMITTED, HOWEVER,
THAT THE SOVIETS DEMANDED CASH ON DELIVERY, AND THAT HE
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STILL HAD A FINANCING PROBLEM.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: I KNOW THE DEPARTMENT WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT, IF AND WHEN THE SAUDIS PRODUCE THEIR \$500 MILLION OFFER, HUSSEIN WILL ACCEPT IT. FOR JORDAN TO REJECT IT OR QUIBBLE ABOUT YET ANOTHER OFFER WOULD HAVE EFFECTS WE NEED NOT DESCRIBE. (SECRET) JIDDA 4810 (EXDIS), 7/11.)

2. ZAIRE: DIVINING MOBUTU'S FUTURE

ZAIRE'S CONTINUING ECONOMIC CRISIS HAS, IN EMBASSY KINSHASA'S ESTIMATION, ERODED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MOBUTU'S REGIME AND DIMINISHED CONFIDENCE IN HIS LEADERSHIP. THE EMBASSY EXPLAINS:

--MOBUTU HAS TRIED TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE POLITICAL REACTION BY MOVING SLOWLY ON DIFFICULT REFORMS.

--IN SO DOING, HOWEVER, HE RISKS PROLONGING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND THUS CREATING EVEN GREATER POLITICAL PROBLEMS LATER ON.

--DESPITE HIS WEAKENED POSITION, THE PRESIDENT FACES NO SERIOUS ORGANIZED OPPOSITION AND SEEMS RELATIVELY SECURE FOR NOW.

EMBASSY COMMENT: IN THE LONG RUN WE FORESEE FURTHER EROSION OF MOBUTU'S POSITION IF ECONOMIC DETERIORATION PERSISTS. ZAIRE'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ARE SO GREAT THAT, EVEN WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND DEBT RELIEF, HE WILL HAVE TO CARRY OUT DIFFICULT REFORMS. TO DO SO, HE WILL NEED TO ASSERT MORE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP THAN HE HAS SHOWN IN RECENT MONTHS. (SECRET) KINSHASA 5843 (LIMDIS), 7/10.)

3. LIBYA: THE BLACKENED EYE OF THE TERRORIST STORM

EMBASSY TRIPOLI NOTES WITH FOREBODING THAT ISRAEL'S DEFEAT OF THE LIBYAN-BACKED TERRORISTS AT ENTEBBE CAME ON THE HEELS OF NUMEROUS OTHER SETBACKS FOR QADHAFI, INCLUDING:

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--NUMEIRI'S CHARGES BEFORE THE OAU OF LIBYAN CULPABILITY IN LAST WEEK'S COUP ATTEMPT;

--PRIME MINISTER JALLUD'S FAILURE TO PLAY AN EFFECTIVE ROLE IN LEBANON; AND

--THE COLONEL'S FORCED RETREAT FROM HIS PROPAGANDA WAR AGAINST EGYPT AND TUNISIA.

AS EVIDENCE THAT QADHAFI WILL MOST LIKELY VENT HIS SPLEEN OVER ALL THIS, THE EMBASSY:

--REPORTS THAT A MOOD OF ANGER, HUMILIATION AND RAGE PREVAILS AT HIS "AZZIZA BARRACKS" HEADQUARTERS; AND

--POINTS TO A QADHAFI-APPROVED EDITORIAL CALLING FOR HARSHER TREATMENT OF HOSTAGES IN TERRORIST INCIDENTS. EMBASSY COMMENT: FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE EYE OF THE TERRORIST STORM, WE SUSPECT THAT THIS LATEST FAILURE WILL LEAD QADHAFI TO SPONSOR SOME SPECTACULAR TERRORIST INCIDENT AGAINST AN ISRAELI TARGET IN THE NEAR FUTURE. (SECRET) TRIPOLI 942 (LIMDIS), 7/11.)

4. NUMEIRI COUNSELS THE DIRG

THE SUDANESE AMBASSADOR TO YEMEN TOLD EMBASSY SANA JULY 10:

--NUMEIRI HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT THAT HE BELIEVES THE ERITREANS SHOULD ACCEPT THE DIRG'S OFFER OF AUTONOMY.

--THE SUDAN HAS PURSUED A POLICY OF STRICT NON-INTERFERENCE IN ERITREAN AFFAIRS.

--NUMEIRI NEVERTHELESS TOLD THE ETHIOPIANS HE WILL "RESERVE HIS RIGHTS AND OPTIONS" SHOULD THE CONFLICT GENERATE A TIDE OF REFUGEES INTO THE SUDAN. (CONFIDENTIAL) SANA 2377, 7/11.)

5. LEBANON: IRAQI ASSISTANCE VIA CAIRO

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USINT BAGHDAD HAS LEARNED FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT IRAQ HAS SENT SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON VIA EGYPT. THE INTERESTS SECTION ELABORATES:

--THE IRAQIS REPORTEDLY AGREED TO SEND ASSISTANCE TO ARAFAT DURING HIS JUNE 18-21 VISIT.

--IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER IRAQI AID HAS INCLUDED TROOPS.

--THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN BAGHDAD CONFIRMED TO USINT THAT SUBSTANTIAL SHIPMENTS HAVE OCCURRED, BUT ALLEGES THAT THE OPERATION IS OVER AND DENIES KNOWLEDGE OF THE NATURE OF THE ASSISTANCE. (SECRET) BAGHDAD 939, 7/10.) KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MORNING SUMMARY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE171525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: RATIGAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760267-0786
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760767/aaaachex.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SSO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAR 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, EFIN, PGOV, PINS, US, JO, SA, UR, CG, LY, SU, ET, IZ, LE, (MOBUTU SESE SEKO), (NUMEIRI, JA'FA MUHAMMAD)
To: JCS MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006